Minimum Support Price operation for Agricultural produce

3539. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) operation for agricultural produce, Government reimburse online loss incurred by the nodal agencies for MSP operation;

(b) if so, the procurement losses incurred and reimbursed by Government, for commercial crops like Jute, Cotton and Copra, year-wise since 1990-91 to 1998-99;

(c) whether the losses incurred under MSP operations for Jute by the Jute Corporation of India is still pending for reimbursement; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the entire losses will be reimbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government announces the Minimum Support Price for major agricultural Commodities every year and the losses if any, incurred by the respective central nodal agencies on MSP operation are reimbursed by the Government of India on submission of claims.

(b) to (d) The information is being compiled in consultation with concerned Ministries and Organisations and shall be submitted accordingly.

Training in Hindi Typing

†3540. SHRI BALKAVIBAIRAGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of such typists and stenographers in his Ministry/ Department and subordinate offices who have not received training of Hindi typing or Hindi stenography until now; and

(b) the reasons for not providing them training as yet and by when they are planned to be given such training?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The number of such typists and stenographers in the Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation and its Subordinate offices who have not received training of Hindi Typing or Hindi Stenography is 87 and 175 respectively.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Remaining untrained employees would be deputed to undergo such training organised by the Hindi Teaching Scheme of the Deptt. of Official Language in a phased manner. It is expected that the training of remaining employees in Region 'A' and 'B' would be completed by the end of year 2000 and in Region 'C' it would be completed by the end of year 2003.

Horticultural Development in H.P.

3541. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) as the development of horticulture can bring in significant enhancement in the welfare of the children and women and nutritional status of tribals in hilly region and other weaker sector in Himachal Pradesh, what steps Government have undertaken in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that few districts in the country have been treated for this purpose; and

(c) what steps have been taken to select some more areas of Himachal Pradesh in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) For development of horticulture in potential areas in Himachal Pradesh following central sector/centrally sponsored schemes are being implemented during 9th Plan.

(i) Integrated development of tropical, arid and temperate zone fruits,
(ii) Production and supply of vegetable seeds,
(iii) Integrated programme for development of spices,
(iv) Establishment of nutritional gardens.
(v) Scheme on commercial floriculture.
(vi) Scheme for promoting cultivation of root and tuber crops.
(vii) Scheme for mushroom cultivation.
(viii) Development of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.
(ix) Use of Plastics in agriculture.

For implementation of above schemes in Himachal Pradesh during 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 88.91 lakhs was released. Besides, Food and Nutrition Board through its Community Food and Nutrition Extension Units at Mandi and Shimla in Himachal Pradesh organise nutrition education programmes to sensitise the commnity on various nutrition related issues.